



For Release: Wednesday, November 13, 2019

19-2045-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

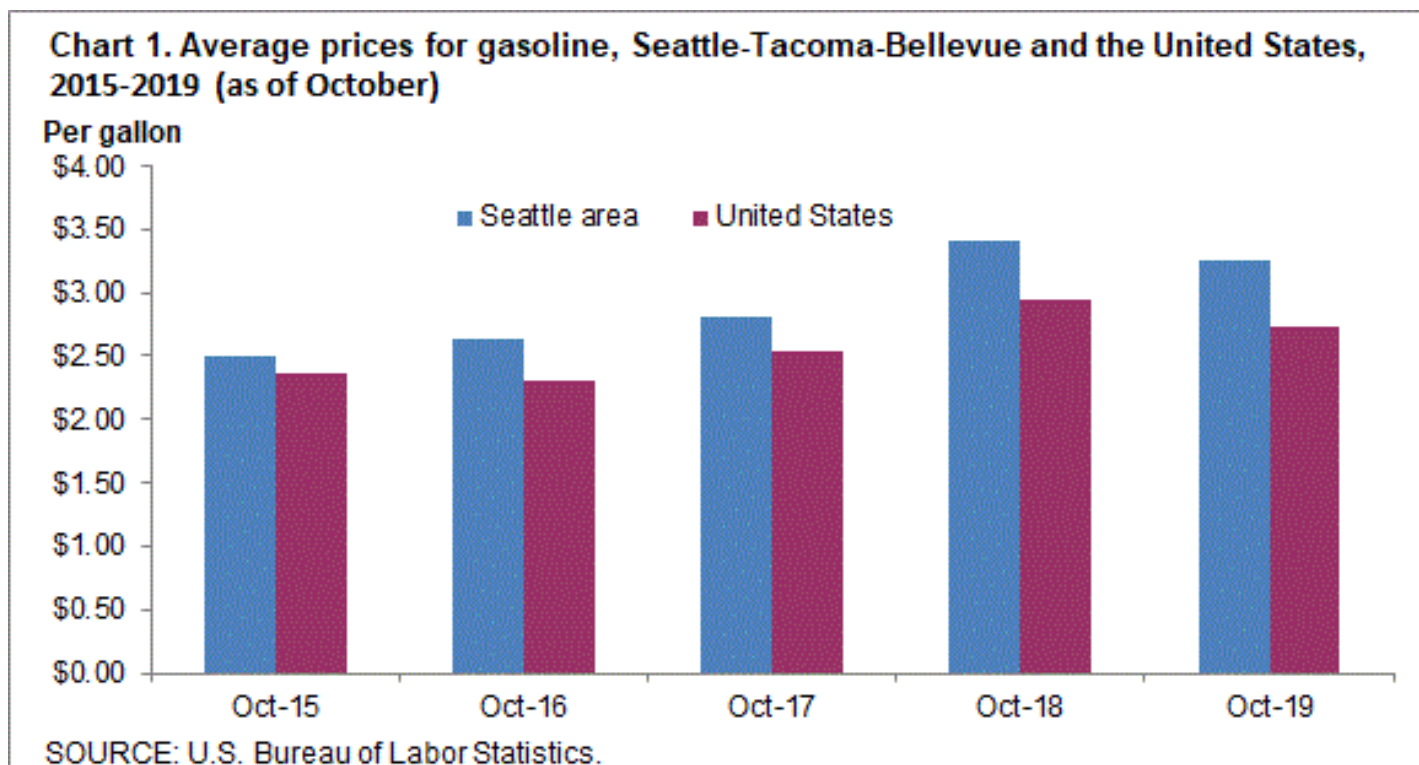
Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

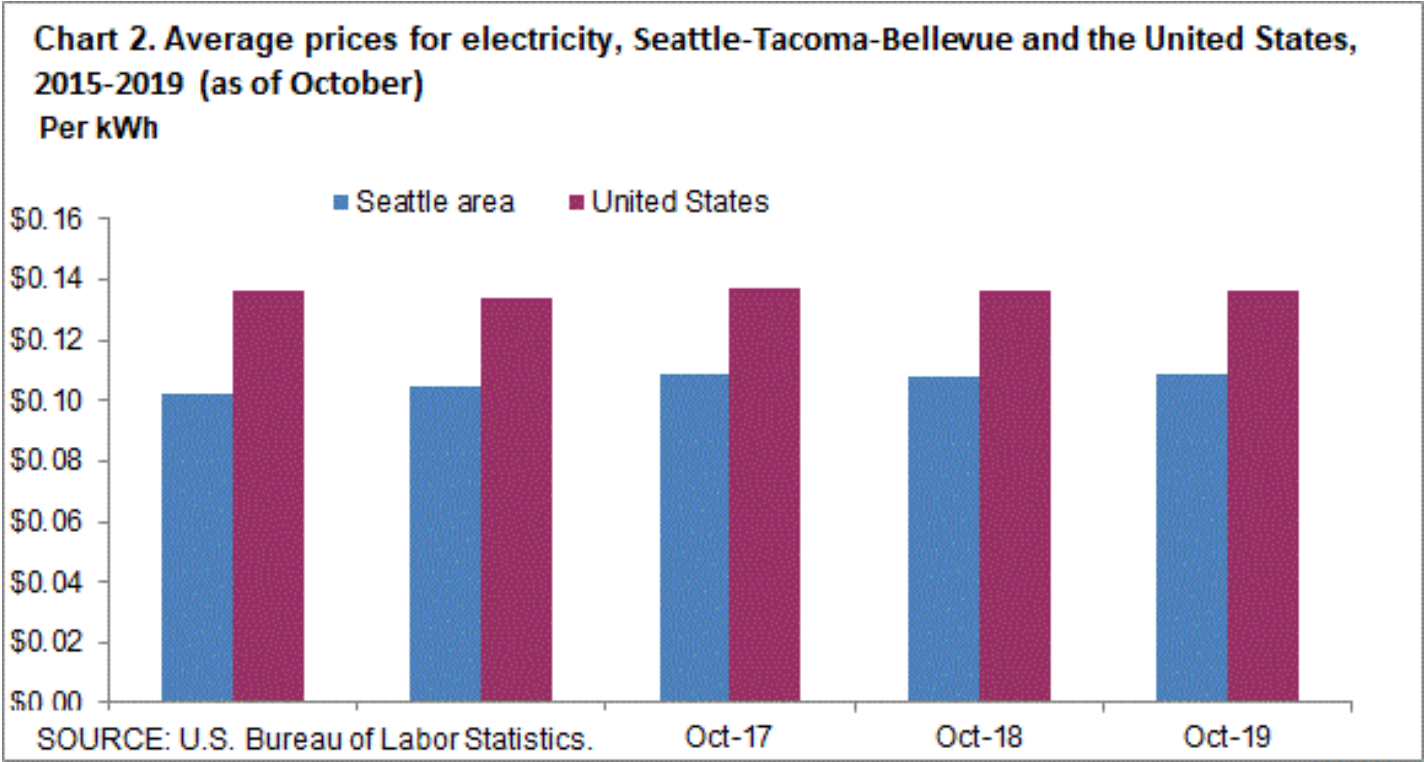
Average Energy Prices, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue – October 2019

Gasoline prices averaged \$3.255 a gallon in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue area in October 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that area gasoline prices were lower than last October when they averaged \$3.406 per gallon. Seattle area households paid an average of 10.9 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) of electricity in October 2019, similar to the 10.8 cents per kWh paid in October 2018. The average cost of utility (piped) gas at \$1.000 per therm in October was less than the \$1.081 per therm spent last year. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

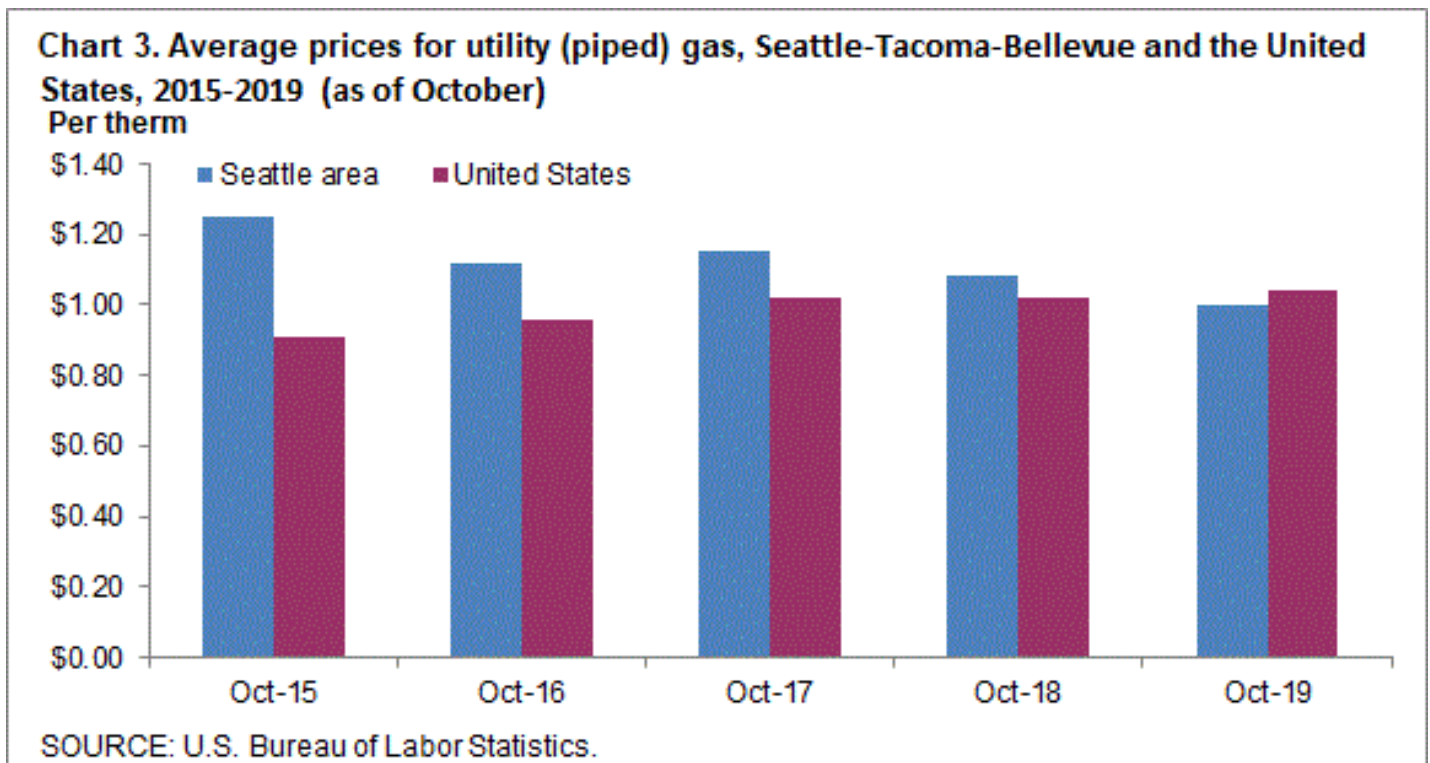
At \$3.255 a gallon, Seattle area consumers paid 18.8 percent more than the \$2.741 national average in October 2019. A year earlier, consumers in the Seattle area paid 15.7 percent more than the national average for a gallon of gasoline. The local price of a gallon of gasoline has been within 18.8 percent of the national average in the month of October during the past five years. (See [chart 1.](#))



The 10.9 cents per kWh Seattle households paid for electricity in October 2019 was 19.9 percent less than the nationwide average of 13.6 cents per kWh. Last October, electricity costs were 20.6 percent lower in Seattle compared to the nation. In each of the past five years during the month of October, prices paid by Seattle area consumers for electricity were less than the U.S. average by at least 19.9 percent. (See [chart 2.](#))



Prices paid by Seattle area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, were \$1.000 per therm, 3.9 percent less than the national average in October 2019 (\$1.041 per therm). A year earlier, area consumers paid 5.7 percent more per therm for natural gas compared to the nation. In the past five years, the per therm cost for natural gas in October in the Seattle area has varied between 3.9 percent below and 37.7 percent above the U.S. average. (See [chart 3.](#))



The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, Wash. metropolitan area consists of King, Snohomish, and Pierce Counties of Washington.

Technical Note

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, 9 divisions, 2 population size classes, 8 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 23 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm, are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue and the United States, October 2018-October 2019, not seasonally adjusted

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States	Seattle area	United States
2018						
October.....	\$3.406	\$2.945	\$0.108	\$0.136	\$1.081	\$1.023
November.....	3.374	2.733	0.108	0.134	0.983	1.020
December.....	3.143	2.479	0.108	0.135	0.983	1.085
2019						
January.....	2.940	2.352	0.110	0.135	0.987	1.082
February.....	2.859	2.412	0.110	0.136	0.987	1.051
March.....	2.930	2.620	0.110	0.135	1.012	1.048
April.....	3.345	2.894	0.112	0.135	1.018	1.034
May.....	3.545	2.963	0.112	0.136	0.999	1.035
June.....	3.410	2.814	0.112	0.139	0.999	1.035
July.....	3.410	2.814	0.112	0.139	0.999	1.035
August.....	3.175	2.716	0.111	0.139	0.999	1.034
September.....	3.114	2.694	0.111	0.139	0.999	1.019
October.....	3.255	2.741	0.109	0.136	1.000	1.041